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## 2. Number of individual employers and personal assistants

This year we have improved our methodology for making estimates for this part of the sector.

We have applied a data engineering pipeline which has allowed us to improve the way we make estimates for missing local authorities. We now use a combination of mean imputation, extrapolation, and interpolation.

We have added a rolling average to our figures to reduce the impact of bias in the data for years with fewer local authorities responding to the ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) survey.

We have also been able to apply more sophisticated logic to assess the ADASS data we use to estimate the proportion of direct payment recipients with care and support needs who employ staff.

We have improve the logic we use to remove outliers from the raw data by considering change within a local authority area over time.